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CONFIDENTIAL

17 September 1954

Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks.

Dear John:

On several recent occasions we have been severely handicapped in fulfilling our mission by our inability to report on the broadcasting of BBC. As I mentioned to you during our last meeting, we are finding it increasingly important to report on the Western World. While Communist Bloc broadcasting is of paramount interest we cannot be solely preoccupied in this but must maintain global capabilities and at least some coverage of all important countries.

The latest development on which we needed BBC coverage was SEATO. We prepared a report on reaction to this important conference (copy attached) and the absence of British radio reaction was a serious gap. We try to cover up with reports from our own people at Caversham on the comment in principal British newspapers, but we find this awkward.

Before undertaking to monitor the BBC external services, which even on a limited basis would cut into our available personnel and funds to the detriment of our combined overall coverage, I would appreciate your views on the feasibility of securing summaries or outlines or scripts from Broadcasting House.

I can assure you that we would only call for them in connection with actual papers being prepared by us and that little or no material would be requested on a routine basis. Usually we would like to know what the BBC is saying to various audiences in anticipation of or following major significant events. In some cases we would like to know what the BBC is saying on a particular subject.

If there are policy reasons why this cannot be done please do not hesitate to say so.

We are leaving several matters to discuss with you in depth when you visit us next year so please be sure to come.

Sincerely,

APPROVED:

Asst. Dir. for Operations

Chief, FBIS

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